



Sons of Italy of Ocean City Lodge #2474

P.O. Box 4596, Ocean City, Maryland 21843-4596

www.sonsofitalyoceancity.com

Newsletter Email: SOI2474@aol.com

Newsletter Editor: **Sue Ann Baietti**

January 2017

The President's Message

Sisters and Brothers,

As we begin my second year as President, I want to thank you for all you do to support me and our Lodge. The Ocean City Lodge is strong and vibrant thanks to an exceptional leadership team, dedicated committee chairs/members and an enthusiastic, active membership.

The Lodge has 215 members as of December 31, 2016, and we added four new members at the January meeting—great start for 2017. The attendance at our monthly meetings is between 85 and 105, most often closer to 100. I attribute this remarkable attendance to the happy fact that our meetings are more a social gathering of people tied to each other by our Italian heritage than purely a business session. Please continue to spread the word about our Lodge so that the membership will continue to grow.

In 2016, the leadership team (Executive Council) revised the Lodge By-Laws (approved by State, awaiting final National approval). The Treasurer and Financial Secretary have collaborated on a 2017 budget, and we have in place regular financial reviews by the Trustees to ensure that we are tracking the budget and that our finances remain secure.

Our programs and fund raising have been outstanding. In 2016 we increased the scholarship budget to \$4500 (3 x \$1500 awards) and the Charity budget to \$3500. Our Christmas support of the Worcester County G.O.L.D. families was remarkable. The St. Joseph Festival is not only our major fundraiser but has become a great social event with members working together to plan, prepare (e.g., making meatballs) and staff the event. As we prepare for our 7th Festival, I encourage anyone who has not participated to “sign up”.

The Lodge's social activities bring us together for social dinners, frequent bus trips to Harrington and many other travel adventures.

Finally, I want to thank Vinnie Mollicone and his committee, Jim and Deb Reda, for serving as the selection committee for the Lodge's Distinguished Citizen Award. Our honorees, Barbara and Armando Graziosi, have done and continue to do so much for the Lodge. As our Historians, they have encouraged members to share stories about their Italian heritage. We heard from Ray D'Antuono at our last meeting who shared his remembrances of his three cousins who served in World War II.

All of this is what makes our Lodge so special. Thank you again. I look forward to another great year.

As always remember those on our prayer list.

God bless you and keep you safe. *Ciao, Vito*

President

Vito Potenza

(410) 641-8046

Immediate Past President

Sal Castorina

(302) 436-2146

Vice President

Vincent Mollicone

(443) 664-5940

Recording Secretary

Jane Bartolomeo

(302) 436-8208

Corresponding Secretary

Sue Ann Baietti

(302) 945-4237

Treasurer

Tony Parisi

(302) 829-1368

Financial Secretary

Rosemarie Pomilla

(302) 436-4221

Orator

Sebastian (Bob) Arena

(410) 250-0048

Trustees

Al DiOrio

(302) 430-1004

Ilene Parisi

(302) 829-1368

Tom Pergola

(302) 541-4737

Tom Pomilla

(302) 436-4221

John Rubino

(302) 436-6040

Membership

The fees for memberships are \$38.00 per person for renewals and \$58.00 for new members (first time only). Memberships must be paid **by January 15, 2016**, if not member will be taken off the rolls. Contact Rita Tindall, Membership Chair, at (410) 208-9698 for more information and/or questions. **New members: George and Terry Wright, Edwin and Sharon Smith**

Celebrating Their Birthdays

Those celebrating their special day in February are: February 1: **Bob Arena, George Wright**; February 4: **JoAnne Fimmano, David Quillen, Dennis Patti**; February 6: **Josephine DiClementi**; February 8: **George Madden, Jr.**; February 11: **Geraldine Connelly**; February 13: **Edwin Smith**; February 14: **Joseph Sirolli**; February 16: **Peggy Nawn**; February 18: **Paul Harman, Jane Bartolomeo**; February 21: **Vera Burlin**; February 22: **Sal Castorina**; February 24: **Deborah Reda**; and February 25: **Joan Gentile, Wallace Watson**.

Ailing and Suffering

If you know of anyone who is sick, had surgery or recently has lost a loved one, please call JoAnn Ward at (302) 524-8161. Card(s) will be sent.

50/50 Winner



Max Coschignano

Mary Ellen's Special Events Corner

HARRINGTON CASINO TRIP - Wednesday, January 25, 2017. We are on the road to Harrington Casino leaving St. Andrews's Parish Center at 10:00 a.m. (bus will be there at 9:30 a.m. for boarding) and arriving at Harrington at 11:30 a.m. We will be returning to Ocean City at 5:00 p.m. Cost is \$20.00 per person and includes: \$15.00 Free Play Card, \$7.00 credit toward Buffet Lunch, Motor Coach Transportation and Driver's Gratuity. Reservations with payment due.

CHARLESTON/SAVANNAH TRIP - April 23-29, 2017. Last call for taking out insurance on this trip. Cost is \$59.00 pp. Also, a reminder that Final Payment of \$800.00 pp. is due on February 15, 2017, which can be brought to the February SOI Meeting. If you are unable to attend, be sure to mail payment to Mary Ellen. Itineraries and luggage tags will be given out at the April meeting. We have 3 seats available due to cancellations. If you know of anyone who may wish to join us have them contact Mary Ellen Arena.

MARDI GRAS DINNER - February 22, 2017. We will be having a Mardi Gras Dinner at the Clarion Hotel on Wednesday, February 22, 2017, beginning at 5:00 p.m. with a Social Hour in the Horizon's Bar with Happy Hour Drink Prices until 7:00 p.m. We will be ordering "Off the 50% Menu" for Entrees only – a choice of 6 dinner entrees which will include a small salad only and will include 20% gratuity and 6.5% Food Tax. If you wish to be seated as a group, you will need to sign up as a 'group seating'. Brian Clark will be the entertainment. Please sign up with Mary Ellen. We have 65 guests' slots. Everyone invited to wear a Masquerade Mask, and a prize will be presented to the Best Mask.

Mistresses of Ceremony

JoAnn Ward

(302) 524-8161

Dottie Tumminello

(410) 250-3400

Sergeant-at-Arms

Mike Corless

(410) 208-3064

Committees:

Charity

Mary Castorina, Chair

(302) 436-2146

Fundraising

Sal Castorina, Chair

(302) 436-2146

Helping Hands

Anna Rubino, Chair

(302) 436-6040

Historians

Barb and Armando Graziosi

(302) 841-9672

Membership

Rita Tindall, Chair

(410) 208-9698

Program

Anna Foultz, Chair

(410) 641-7667

Public Relations

Anna Foultz, Chair

(410) 641-7667

Scholarship

Donna Potenza, Chair

(410) 641-8046

Social

Mary Ellen Arena, Chair

(410) 250-0048

Web Site:

Tom Pergola / John Rubino

(302) 541-4737 / (302) 436-6040

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HYDE PARK/FINGER LAKES TRIP - October 7-13, 2017 (7 days, 6 nights). Cost is \$1200.00 pp. (Double Occupancy) - \$425.00 Single Supplement Cost. 6 Nights' Accommodations – 3 nights in Hyde Park and 3 Nights in Finger Lakes Area. 6 Breakfasts and Dinners are also included with one at the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park and one at Belhurst Castle in the Finger Lakes. Guided Tours include West Point, the Culinary Institute, the Roosevelt Mansion and Museum, Val-Kill Estate and Vanderbilt Mansion. We will also take a boat excursion on the Hudson River and take an Erie Canal Lock Cruise aboard the Colonial Belle. Admission to Baseball Hall of Fame is also included. Reservation and Deposit of \$500.00 pp is required by April 15, 2017, with balance due by August 1, 2017. Insurance will be available. Bus seating based on reservation date. After April 15, trip will be open to non-members.

ST. JOSEPH'S DINNER - Italian Feast of St. Joseph's Dinner with entertainment available at Doolan's Shore Club in Spring Lake, New Jersey, on Wednesday, March 29, 2017. Menu includes: Sirloin of Beef, Chicken Parmesan, Tilipia Francaise along with much more. Following dinner, there will be a fantastic Revue Show with Sinatra Stylist Steve Manglio and comedian Chris Monty. Cost of \$110.00 pp which includes dinner, entertainment, Motor Coach Transportation and all meal and driver gratuities. Mary Ellen needs to know how many would be interested in this day trip. As usual, we will need 40 guests to do this day trip.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE SONS OF ITALY OF OCEAN CITY

Congratulations to Armando and Barbara Graziosi! They were presented with our Distinguished Citizens of The Year Award for their many years of dedication to our Lodge.

The Grand Lodge of Maryland is planning the State Convention to be held in Ocean City at Columbus Hall on June 3, 2017.

Vito recognized and welcomed Mike Roca, the President of the Caesar Rodney SOI Lodge of Delaware, at our January Meeting.

St. Joseph Festival News

There will be a meeting for the Festival on January 19, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. at St. Andrew's Parish Hall. New for this year, Sal is planning to sell fried dough and gelato in addition to our usual foods.

Mary Ellen is in charge of scheduling relief workers. Those interested in helping out should contact Mary Ellen.

Tom Pergola encouraged everyone to help promote the St. Joseph's Festival Program with general ads or patron ads to cover the cost of the program. Last year's program is available to use to show potential businesses how nice their ads would be.

Janet Ackerson reported that she has sign-up sheets for different locations and businesses where we can go to solicit donations. She has solicitation letters to be given to the businesses and is looking for volunteers. She also has sign-up sheets for volunteers to help put baskets together for the Basket Raffle. Ticket sellers are also needed on the day of the Festival.

Mark Your Calendars

Thursday, February 2, 2017, next meeting at Columbus Hall.

5:30 p.m. -- Executive Council Meeting /7:00 p.m. -- General Assembly Meeting

Star Charities: Annual Beef and Beer on January 27, 2017, at 5:00 p.m. Ocean Pines Community Center for our Wounded Soldiers in Maryland. Tickets are \$25.00, Contact Anna Fultz (410) 641-7667.

